

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-6 and 16-19 were rejected. Claim 1 was rejected under Section 102(e) over *Lemilainen* and, separately, also under Section 102(e) over *Jawanda*. Claim 19 was rejected under Section 102(e) over *Sasson*. Claim 12 was rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, for a recitation lacking antecedent basis. Claims 1-6 and 16-19 were provisionally rejected for an obviousness-type double patenting in light of co-pending application No. 09/599,136. And, while objection was made to claims 7-15 and 20 for being dependent upon rejected parent claims, such claims were acknowledged to recite patentable subject matter.

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 7-15 and 20. New claim 21 recites the subject matter of claim 7, including its intervening claim. And, claim 19 has been amended to include the recitations of claim 20. As presented and amended, respectively, claims 21 and 19 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Additionally, method claim 17 has been amended to recite a methodology analogous to the structure recited in claim 21, and new independent claim 22 recites methodology analogous to claim 19, as now-amended. These claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

The dependencies of claims 3-4 and 8 have been changed, now to place such claims in dependency upon claim 21. Claims 9-15 also are dependent upon claim 21 by way of intervening claim 8.

A terminal disclaimer is enclosed herewith in response to the provisional double-patenting rejection. As claims 5 and 16 are not otherwise rejected, submission of the terminal disclaimer is believed to place claims 5 and 16 in condition for allowance.

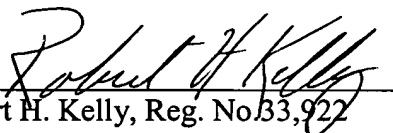
Claim 1 has been canceled and its rejection under Section 102(e) ultimately over *Lemilainen* and *Jawanda* is believed now to be moot.

Remaining ones of the dependent claims, which include all the limitations of their respective parent claims, are believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as those given with respect to their respective parent claims.

In light of the foregoing, independent claims 5, 16, 17, 19, 21, and 22 and the remaining ones of the dependent claims dependent thereon, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, examination or reexamination, as appropriate, and consideration for allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Such early action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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